

HCS SCS SB 996 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Pearce

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 8 to 1. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 8 to 0.

EDUCATION FUNDING (Section 160.415, RSMo)

This bill excludes funds designated by taxpayers in an urban district as local early childhood education funds from the local tax revenue calculation used to provide funding to charter schools that have declared themselves as a local educational agency.

GIFTED EDUCATION (Sections 162.720 and 163.031)

This bill modifies provisions relating to gifted education.

Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, a school district will incur a reduction in funding if it experiences a decrease in its gifted program enrollment of more than 20%. If a school district experiences a decrease of 20% or more in its gifted program enrollment, an amount equal to the product of the difference between the number of students enrolled in the gifted program in the current school year and the number of students enrolled in the previous school year multiplied by \$680 must be subtracted from the school district's current year payment amount. This provision does not apply to school districts with an average daily attendance of 350 or less.

This provision of the bill is similar to HB 637 (2015) and HCS HB 1419 (2016).

EARLY LEARNING QUALITY ASSURANCE (Section 161.217)

This bill establishes an early learning quality assurance report three-year pilot program in collaboration with the Missouri Head Start Collaboration Office and the departments of Health and Senior Services, Mental Health, and Social Services. The program is voluntary for any licensed or license-exempt early learning providers that are center-based or home-based and providing services for children from any age up to kindergarten.

This provision of the bill is similar to HB 2566 (2016).

This bill also repeals a current section on quality rating systems for early childhood education. The section prohibits certain

public institutions, as described within the section, from operating or mandating participation in a quality rating system or training quality assurance system, as described within the section.

This bill contains an emergency clause for a certain section and delayed effective date for a certain section.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say this bill represents a simple legislative fix. This bill will not represent a loss of funds to either public schools or charter programs. We hope we are able to create a comprehensive learning program. An emergency clause is being sought so this can be placed on the ballot for August.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Pearce and George Lopez.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.